
No. 45.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
San Francisco, California, October 5, 1864.

SIR: I have just returned from a visit to Round valley, where business of importance suddenly called me.

It affords me pleasure to report that the affairs on the reservation at that place are in a most flourishing condition. As I predicted in former communication, the Indians on the different branches of Bel river, contiguous to that reservation, known as the "Eukas" and "Wylackies," are coming in continually and settling upon the reservation. Over two hundred came in while I was there,

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and they say all the others will come in as soon as they can be made to know the difference between kidnappers and squaw-hunters and those whose duty and business it is to feed and protect them.

I never saw Indians more agreeably surprised than those Wylackies were, when they came in and found that they could have a home on the reservation. They went to work with a will, and are highly pleased with the prospects of food for the winter. We have an abundance of food there for all that may come, and I will see that they get it. The sanitary condition of all the Indians there is excellent, and I trust they will never again be found in the wretched condition they were in when I took charge of them. They are sadly in need of clothing, and I am at a loss to know what to do about it. Our clothing will not arrive from New York till late, and there is not enough then to supply the wants of half the Indians. There are many Indians in the State, not living upon reservations, who are sadly in need of clothing. It will be my object to collect them upon reservations during the winter. I can easily accomplish this if I have clothing, for I have the food.

You will see by my annual report that the number of Indians on reservations are far under the number which the department had reason to expect were being cared for. My report was correct at the time, but I am well convinced that my next annual report will show a large increase.

Not having heard anything from the department concerning the purchase of improvements and removal of settlers from Round valley, and the season for putting in crops advancing, I have rented a large farm adjoining the reservation, and taken possession of it. If, however, the improvements should be purchased within the year, the conditions are such that I will have no rent to pay.

I have notified General McDowell to-day that I am ready to relieve him of the prisoners held at Humboldt bay. Those among them belonging to the Wylackies, some three hundred and fifty, I will receive at Round valley without any fears of their running away. Those from the vicinity of Humboldt I will receive at Smith river, with some doubts as to their remaining there. We will be compelled to retain Smith river for another year. If, by that time, Hoopa valley has been fully established as a reservation, there will be no difficulty in moving those Indians there.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

AUSTIN WILEY,

Superintendent Indian Affairs, California.

Hon. W. P. DOLE, *Commissioner.*